

Shit - outstation (Don Booth)

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Curios and Relics

Clothing

Shirt - Assassination
Owned by John Beatty

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Old Letter Tells of Relics

Scrap of Lincoln's Shirt Comes to Light

John Beatty died many years ago and had no heirs. To his friend, Frank M. Sherry, he left an unusual collection of clippings, Confederate money, and a piece of the shirt President Abraham Lincoln was wearing the night of his murder, in Ford Theatre in Washington.

Frank M. Sherry was the grandfather of Mrs. Frank L. Cummings, of Longdale. A while ago, Mrs. Cummings was rummaging through the collection of things her grandfather left when he died. Among them was a letter which came to light yesterday on the birthday of President Lincoln.

Nothing further is necessary to complete this little story but to quote part of the long, beautifully penned letter, now yellow and frayed.

WRITTEN 3 DAYS LATER

It was dated April 17, 1865, and was written by Mose Sandford, who worked in an undertaking establishment. This is what he had to say to his

Dear Friend Johnny:

"... The morning he died General Rucker came immediately to our shop and had a common pine box made to bring him from Tenth Street to the White House in. After they arrived at the house, they cut his clothes off and threw them in the box we made, and sent the box back to the shop for safe keeping. It was placed in my charge in my room, the hardware department.

"And just as soon as the coast was clear, I unscrewed the lid and went through the wardrobe for relics. I found one of the sleeves of his shirt, one of his sleeve buttons, black enamel trimmed with gold and the letter L on the outside with A. L. underneath that I sent to the Secretary of War. The bosom of his shirt was the next thing which met my eyes as it had considerable blood upon it, so I just confiscated the whole of it.
TOOK NECKTIE ALSO

"The piece I send you, and another about the same size, is all I have left. The necktie I wouldn't part with under any consideration. I've taken all the screws out of the box which were turned down on him from Tenth Street to his house and I have put others in their place. I will give you one when I come home. The box he was brought up in is within five feet of my desk where I am now writing. ..."

It would be hard to explain how just a simple little piece of fine linen can make one feel. There was a faded brown spot on it where scissors cut through it seventy-seven years ago.

3/13/24

Presented to Mrs. Cummings

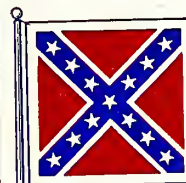
CHARLES J. AFFLECK
34 PEYTON STREET
WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA

"Where the South Begins"

PHONE MOHAWK 2-4329



COLLECTOR
UNITED STATES AND CONFEDERATE
CURRENCY, COINS AND STAMPS



November 6, 1959.

Dr. Gerald McMurtry
Lincoln Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Dr. McMurtry:

When in Washington last week, I was talking with Dr. C. Percy Powell and he suggested that I contact you relative to some Lincoln items.

A letter written by Mose Sandford, Washington, D. C., on April 17, 1865, two days after President Lincoln's death, transmitting a piece of Lincoln's shirt-bosom to his friend John Beatty, Esq., Exchange Broker, Jersey City, N.J. A photo made by Smithsonian of my typewritten copy of the letter is enclosed and will give you full information how the material was obtained.

If you are interested, I will forward the original letter with the piece of shirt-bosom for your examination and offer.

I also have a lot of interesting newspaper items relating to Lincoln dating up to 1891.

My main hobby is collecting Confederate, Broken Bank, Colonial and Continental currency. Do you have any duplicates that you would like to trade for notes that you do not have?

Sincerely yours,

November 12, 1959

Mr. Charles J. Affleck
34 Peyton Street
Winchester, Virginia

Dear Mr. Affleck:

We are pleased to receive your recent letter with photostat copy and information relative to the piece of Abraham Lincoln's shirt-bosom which you have in your possession.

As noted in our enclosure, Dr. McMurtry is at present out of the office on a trip to the Far East and will not return here until mid-December.

Would you care to place a price on your relic?

In any event I think it will be best if you do not forward the piece of Lincoln's shirt-bosom at this time, but rather wait until Dr. McMurtry's return here to the office. I know, he will be very happy to see your relic and will advise you at that time.

Sincerely yours,

(Miss) McCellering:md

December 17, 1959

Mr. Charles J. Affleck
34 Payton Street
Winchester, Virginia

Dear Mr. Affleck:

I have just read your letter of November 6th. I have returned to my office (only a few days ago) from a three months speaking tour to the Far East.

I am interested in the original letter Mose Sandford wrote to his "Dear Friend Johnny" as well as the piece of Lincoln's shirt-bosom which you have in your possession. What price are you asking for the letter and relic? We do not price items that are offered to us for sale. Therefore, I hope you will set a price on the items.

We do not have any duplicate currency coins or stamps to be used in exchange.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM:hw

Write immediately as I am anxious to hear from you *tell us where*
you was and what you where doing when you learned the news. Mose.

Washington, D. C.
April 17th, 1865.

Dear Friend Johnny

You must excuse me for not writing you befor
but as the old saying says better late than never". so here goes.
I hardly think a letter from the City especially at this time and
from an Old Friend will be apt to be thrown to one side and
forgotten. I also send you enclosed in this letter a piece of the
shirt bosom worn by the President on the night of his Murder and
remained on him until he died. I wish you to give a piece of it to
Billy Denver and Tom Greene. I could sell every inch of it for \$5.
but prefer dividing it among my Friends and more especially you
Billy and Tom for I know you will keep and appreciate it also re-
member the doner and while looking upon it recollect that he never
forgets his old and true Friends. I have his necktie and would not
take \$50. for it have been offered \$10 for it several times". I
suppose you would like to know how I came by his clothes. Well the
morning he died, Genl. Rucker came immediately to our shop and had
a common pine box made to bring him 10th St. to the White House in
after they arrived at the House they cut his clothes off of him and
threw them in the box we made and sent the box back to the shop for
safe keeping it was placed in my charge in my room the hardware de-
partment and just as soon as the coast was clear I unscrewed the
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and another about the same size is all I have left the necktie I
wouldnt part with under any consideration I have taken all the
screws out of the box which were turned down on him from 10th St.
to his house and have put others in their place I will give you
one when I come home". The box he was brought up in is within 5
ft of my desk where I am now writing Dont forget to give Tom and
Billy a piece of it the (Shirt-bosom) The murder took place just
25 minutes to eleven on last Friday night at Fords Theatre on 10th
St. the play was our American Cousin. I was at Grovers Theatre
next to Jum Lamberts just 3 1/2 blocks from Fords they were playing
Alladin or the Wondeful Lamp and had just commenced the 4th Act I
was at the time sitting between 2 detectives Friends of mine and
one of them had just asked me the time which was 20 minutes to
eleven Miss German had just finished a song called Sherman March
down to Geo. and was about to repeat it when the door of the theatre
was pushed violently open and a man rushed in exclaiming turn out
for Gods sake the President has been shot in his private box at
Fords theatre he then rushed out everybody seemed glued to the spot
I for one and I think I was one of the first who attempted to moove
("it was either me or apple jack for I was full of that") everybody
followed I made straight for Fords and such another excighted
crowd I never before witnessed I asked who did it and was informed
Wilks Booth they were bringing the President out when I arrived on
the spot I will leave the papers to tell you the rest, business is
entirely suspended and the whole city is draped in mourning, the

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